

Abstract

An apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a  
copyright medium adapted to identify a purchaser by means  
5 of purchaser's fingerprint authentication at the time of  
purchasing an encrypted copyright medium, so that only the  
purchaser can reproduce or copy work data recorded in the  
copyright medium. Data is read from a copyright medium  
identification database in order to write a copyright  
10 medium unique identification database and a cipher key  
database into an Smart card or other recording medium by  
using an Smart card or other recording medium data  
reading/writing device. Moreover, fingerprint data of the  
purchaser of the copyright medium is read by using a  
15 fingerprint authentication device, and the purchaser's  
fingerprint data, the copyright medium unique  
identification data, and the cipher key are written into  
the Smart card or other recording medium by using the  
Smart card or other recording medium data reading/writing  
20 device.